



**Call for a Vote and Explanation of Vote before the Vote during the consideration of Resolution on
“Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka”**

06 October 2022

Mr. President,

Pakistan has been a consistent advocate for dialogue and cooperation as preferred means to advance universal respect for and enjoyment of human rights.

We strongly believe that engagement and consent of the country concerned remain crucial to address human rights concerns and promote compliance with state’s international human rights obligations.

We appreciate Sri Lanka’s active and constructive engagement throughout the informal consultations on draft resolution L.1/Rev.1 which demonstrates its commitment to cooperate with international human rights machinery including this Council.

We share the concerns of Sri Lanka and number of other states that the draft text is intrusive and goes beyond the core-group’s originally conceived objective of promoting accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka in the context of civil war in 2009.

The current text delves into areas such as governance, economic management, corruption, rule of law, democratic process as well as Sri Lanka’s engagement with international financial institutions. This level of scrutiny as envisaged in preambular paragraphs (PPs) 8, 9 and 10 and operative paras (OPs) 4, 5 and 8 would not be even acceptable to any sovereign state including the core-group.

Mr. President,

L.1/Rev.1 fails to condemn the horrendous terrorist acts committed by LTTE, and shies away from a call for accountability of the LTTE and its sponsors and financiers.

During the course of informal consultations, a number of states had explained that OP8 lacks balance, proportionality and consistency including with other key elements of the draft text. For example, PPs 5 & 17 of the text reaffirm the sovereignty of Sri Lanka and welcome its continued engagement with the UN and its human rights mechanisms. However, these provisions are at complete variance with the legally untenable external accountability mechanism as foreseen in OP8.

We note that such provisions are neither grounded in nor are drawn from the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the founding UNGA resolution 60/251, and the IB package.

Mr. President,

At a critical time when the people of Sri Lanka expect demonstration of global solidarity and support to overcome its economic challenges which are not entirely of Sri Lanka's own making, the core-group chose a path that has the potential to exacerbate the problems instead of improving the situation, including with respect to the ongoing efforts towards accountability and reconciliation. Although impacts may vary depending on level of development and economy's resilience but last three years have clearly shown that no single country can claim immunity from the devastating socio-economic impacts of COVID, global liquidity crunch and the climate catastrophe.

Mr. President,

In view of these reasons, Pakistan delegation calls the draft resolution before the Council in to vote and would vote against it.

I thank you...